

>> *Pro Path Guide* >>  
for History Majors & Graduate Students

# Historic Site Guide (“Interpretation”) National Park Service

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Sources: Interview with Professor Michael Welsh, a detailed summary of an interview conducted by Professors Welsh and Melish with a UNC alum in the field, and research on professional websites.  
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## Overview of the Profession

The National Park Service (NPS) hires many historians to manage and interpret for the public the historic sites on their properties. The NPS has varied jobs in history fields including Park Ranger–Interpretation, education outreach, museum tech., archivist, and historic preservation positions. The primary purpose of the Park Ranger–Interpretation

living history clo0.R (e)9ing care and cleaningf interpretive props, inventory and stockingf brochures, maintaining supplies to interpretive statio s, opening and closing the site, and recording visitation statistics.

## Is any additional training, education or certification/qualification required, or helpful?

- Master’s degree in Public History
- Skills in working with the public
- Internship or work experience working in other public history programs
- Conversational skills in another language, especially Spanish or a language common locally, a plus
- Native American studies and/or archaeology studies helpful
- Some training in secondary education is needed if you want an “Educator” position catering to schools

## Is an internship during undergrad necessary or recommended for employment in this field?

- Student Conservation Association jobs: <https://www.thesca.org/serve/positions>

- NPS jobs on USA obs website: <https://www.usajobs.gov/Search/Results?keywords=NationalParkService>

## What is the message to undergraduates?

Do well in your History BA and relevant internships, pick up conversational skills in a second language if possible (not required), and get a professional master’s degree in public history.

**Average pay**

Park Ranger (Interpretation): \$16.73–\$29.60/hr.

Source: <https://www.usajobs.gov/Search/Results?k=national%20park%20service&p=1> accessed 12/2020

**UNC History Department or other UNC contact for students interested in employment in this field:**

Professor Michael Welsh: [Michael.Welsh@unco.edu](mailto:Michael.Welsh@unco.edu).

**Websites and/or books relevant to this career:**

<https://www.nps.gov/>